

<<英美概况>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

本书介绍了英国、美国的地理概貌、历史背景、政治制度、经济概况、科学技术、文化传统、体育娱乐、宗教信仰、风俗习惯及社会生活等方面的基本知识，有助于学习者了解英美的思维方式、价值观念及生活方式，更好地掌握和运用英语语言，加深对语言和文化理解，增强对文化差异的敏感性，提高分析和评价能力，达到扩大知识面、巩固和提高英语水平之目的。

本书受教育部师范司委托，由高等教育出版社组织编写和出版。

1999年在武汉华中师范大学召开的全国师范“专升本”英语教材编写会议上，与会代表对《英美概况》一书提出了很好的编写原则，概括起来有两点：一是以比较的视角来编写《英美概况》。

这样学员可以在学习过程中有比较地掌握知识、内容。

二是强调知识的规范性和准确性。

根据上述原则，本书在编写过程中力图符合中学英语教师及其他考生的实际需要和实际水平，做到语言通俗易懂、内容新颖、趣味性强。

考虑到学生已学过专科英语课程，具备一定的英语基础，因此，注释用英语。

为让学生能在课堂教学中更好地理解、消化所学内容，每章节后面还附有讨论题和术语解释。

另外，考虑到一般师范院校已开设英美文学课程，故未把英美文学的内容列入本书。

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章节摘录

History will always remember two names: Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. It was they who discovered and identified the new continents. Columbus was born in 1451 in Genoa, a beautiful city on the seashore of the Mediterranean in Italy. He became interested in sailing the sea early in his childhood. He was a brave man, believing the idea that the earth was round. He made a plan for his journey to India and China by sailing west into the Atlantic Ocean, which was then called the "Sea of Darkness". He had tried for seven years to get support from the rulers of Portugal, England, France and other countries, but he was turned down and his idea was laughed at. Finally King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to help him and provided ships and sailors.

Columbus's party set out on August 3rd, 1492, in three small ships named the "Pinta", "Nina", and the "Santa Maria". Columbus and his men overcame countless difficulties and at last on October 12th they reached a group of islands that are now called the Bahamas. Columbus named the island he landed on San Salvador, meaning "Holy Savior". Columbus, however, mistook these islands for part of India and so called the people there Indians. Columbus made three more voyages between 1493 and 1504 and in his third voyage in 1498 he discovered the mainland of South America. The great discoverer died in 1506, never realizing that he had discovered a new continent. Another important figure in the process of the discovery of the New World was Amerigo Vespucci. He was not the discoverer of the new continents, but it was he who first confirmed the fact that a new continent rather than Asia had been discovered. Vespucci made his first voyage in 1499 and the second in 1500. He also made two more unimportant voyages later. He was for a time regarded as the discoverer of the new land because he wrote many letters in which the new continents were described in great detail and the letters were most quickly published and widely spread. Thus a false impression was created that it was Vespucci rather than Columbus who first discovered the New World, and so in 1507 the New World was named after him, the Latin form of his Christian name, Amerigo. The discovery of the New World was of great importance. Not only did it widen people's horizon, but it also opened up fresh ground for the rising bourgeoisie. It promoted the development of commerce, sea navigation and industry, and provided the way for the rapid development of early capitalism.

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编辑推荐

编者与审者均为国内知名专家、教授及多年从事师范英语教学的优秀教师。

针对性：本套教材汲取了国内外最新外语教学研究成果，理论与实践并重，针对中学进修教师实际需要精心编写。

实用性：本套教材在选材与练习设计上以培养学习者综合语言应用能力为宗旨，注重提高其业务能力。

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